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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: BRADSHER ON U.S. VIOLATED POLICY FOR CROATIAN TERRORISTS

NO. 17

FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF ARTICLE BY HENRY BRADSHER ON US VIOLATED POLICY FOR CROATIAN TERRORISTS, WASHINGTON STAR, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16:

BEGIN QUOTE: IN THE AFTERMATH OF LAST WEEK'S CROATIAN NATIONALIST HIJACKING, THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS REITERATED ADMINISTRATION POLICY OF NOT MAKING ANY CONCESSIONS TO TERRORISTS BUT CONCEDED THAT THE FBI VIOLATED THAT POLICY.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS IN TURN BEEN IDENTIFIED BY ANOTHER AGENCY INVOLVED IN THE WEEKEND DRAMA, THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, AS HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN MAKING CONCESSIONS.

THE FBI URGED SOME AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS TO SATISFY THE FIVE TERRORISTS' DEMANDS FOR PUBLICITY FOR THEIR CAUSE. THE FIVE, WHO SOUGHT INDEPENDENCE OF CROATIA FROM YUGOSLAVIA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELEASED THEIR 92 HOSTAGES AND SURRENDERED IN PARIS AND

ARE NOW AWAITING TRIAL IN NEW YORK.

THE FAA PLAYED A ROLE IN THE DROPPING OF TERRORISTS' LEAFLETS FROM AN AMERICAN PLANE IN LONDON AND PARIS TO PUBLICIZE THE CROATIAN CAUSE. IT ALSO CLEARED A FLIGHT TO DROP LEAFLETS OVER CHICAGO IN ANSWER TO THE TERRORISTS' DEMANDS.

ASKED WHETHER THE FBI ROLE HAD VIOLATED THE GOVERNMENT BAN ON CONCESSIONS TO TERRORISTS, THE BUREAU ISSUED THIS STATEMENT ON TUESDAY:

"THE DECISION TO RELEASE THIS MATERIAL (TO THE NEWSPAPERS) WAS MADE SOLELY BY THE FBI IN VIEW OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH EXISTED AT THE TIME, BUT DOES NOT REPRESENT ANY CHANGE IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S POLICY REGARDING ACCEDING TO DEMANDS OF TERRORISTS."

IN REITERATING THAT POLICY YESTERDAY, A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AGREED WITH A QUESTIONER THAT THE FBI "AS MUCH AS SAID THAT" IT HAD BROKEN THE POLICY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT "THE POLICY, WHICH INVOLVES A REFUSAL ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH TERRORISTS, TO COMPLY WITH MONETARY OR IN KIND RANSOM DEMANDS OR TO ACCEDE TO ANY TERRORIST DEMANDS, HAS NOT CHANGED AND WILL NOT CHANGE.

THE MAINTENANCE OF THIS NO-NEGOTIATIONS, NO-CONCESSIONS POLICY IS BASED ON OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT FUTURE INCIDENTS CAN BE DETERRED ONLY WHEN IT IS WIDELY UNDERSTOOD AND RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH ACTS CANNOT SUCCEED AND WILL NOT FURTHER THE CAUSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL TERRORIST OR INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION." END QUOTE

COMMENT: BRADSHER TOLD BROWN PRIVATELY THAT STAR HAD OMITTED FINAL PARAGRAPHS OF HIS STORY WHICH (IN BRADSHER'S VIEW) "SUBSTANTIATED" FAA'S STATEMENT THAT STATE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN MAKING CONCESSIONS. BRADSHER EXPRESSED SHAGRIN AND ADMITTED THAT STORY AS IT APPEARED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN STAR "DIDN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE." END COMMENT. HABIB

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